



Reading Toolkit: Grade 5 Objective 3.A.2.b

Student Handout: Reading: Grade 5 Objective 3.A.2.b

Standard 3.0 Comprehension of Literary Text

Topic A. Comprehension of Literary Text

Indicator 2. Analyze text features to facilitate understanding of literary texts

Objective b. Identify and explain how graphic aids such as pictures and illustrations, punctuation, print features contribute to meaning

Assessment Limits:

In the text or a portion of the text

Selected Response (SR) Item

Question

Read this passage from '[Captain Kate](#)', a novel that takes place during the Civil War. Kate and Seth must take the family canal boat to Washington City to sell a load of coal. Then answer the following.

Read these lines from paragraph 15.

"*Stepbrother*, Kate corrected silently, reaching for the plate."

The italicized word *mostly* shows Kate's

- A. desire to be in charge of the boat
- B. refusal to accept new family members
- C. concern that Seth shares family information
- D. anger that Seth receives more attention than she does

Correct Answer

B. refusal to accept new family members

Question

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Handouts

from Captain Kate

by Carolyn Reeder

"I'll carry that," Seth said, and he reached for the plank. But Kate ignored him and tucked one end of it under her arm. As she turned around, she felt the other end of the long board bump something, and she glanced back in time to see Seth slip off *The Mary Ann*, his arms flailing.

Kate dropped the board and ran to the edge of the boat just as Seth clawed his way to the surface of the water, gasping for breath. "I'll get a rope," she cried, but Seth was already struggling toward the ladder on that side of *The Mary Ann*, weighed down by his wool jacket and heavy shoes. Kate leaned over to help him, but he ignored her hand and pulled himself onto the boat.

"Don't you act so innocent," he said, teeth chattering.

Kate took a step back speechless. He thought she'd pushed him in on purpose.

"Last week of March is a bit cold for swimming, laddie," a voice called from the next boat. "Better come aboard the *Captain's Fancy* and warm up at our stove."

"Thanks, Mr. O'Brian," Kate called, finding her voice. "Come on, Seth, you've got to get out of those wet things so you don't take a chill." She didn't want to have to put off the first trip down the waterway because her stepbrother was sick.

Soon, Seth was wrapped in a blanket and sipping a cup of hot, heavily sweetened tea as they sat in the cabin of the neighbor's boat. "So how'd you manage to fall in, laddie?" Mrs. O'Brian asked as she hung Seth's clothes near the stove to dry.

"I didn't fall in. I was pushed."

"Oh, now, our Katie would never do a thing like that," the woman said, and her husband nodded his agreement.

Kate blushed. "I was carrying the plank, and I bumped him with it, but I didn't do it on purpose."

"Of course you didn't," Mrs. O'Brian said. Turning to Seth she asked, "What's your name, boy? I never seen you 'round here before."

"My name's Seth Hillerman, and I've never been around here before, ma'am. My father married Kate's mother last fall."

Mr. O'Brian raised his eyebrows. "So there'll be a new captain for *The Mary Ann* this year! What's your father's given name, Seth?"

But before he could answer, Kate quickly said, "Mama will be the captain, just like last season. Seth's father's gone off to fight in the war." How could the O'Brians think another man would ever take Papa's place at *The Mary Ann's* tiller?

"Here, Katie," Mrs. O'Brian said, "have some of these cookies and then pass them to your brother."

¹⁵*Stepbrother*, Kate corrected silently, reaching for the plate.

(Later, once *The Mary Ann* has completed business in Washington City.)

After a late lunch of bread and cheese, Seth said cheerfully, "If we aren't starting home till tomorrow, I'm going to have a look at Washington City."

"You can do that on some trip when we have to wait in line to be unloaded," Kate said. "This afternoon we have to scrub down the boat and get rid of all this coal dust." She ran her finger down the wall by the table, making a clean track in the thin layer of grime. "We have to gather up the coal left along the sides of the hatches when *The Mary Ann* was unloaded, too."

"Why this sudden urge to clean down there when you've never even bothered to keep the cabin neat?"

Kate's eyes narrowed, but she managed to control the flare of anger that threatened to burst forth. "It's not a 'sudden urge.' It's what boaters always do. Any coal that's left after *The Mary Ann's* unloaded belongs to us—it's what keeps us warm all winter. I want you and Zeke to shovel the lumps into sacks we can sling across the mules when we get home. And that's an order from your captain, by the way," Kate added.

"That order doesn't have anything to do with running the boat, so I don't have to obey it. Zeke can clean out the hatches by himself."

Kate was tired of arguing. "Then I'll help Zeke while you scrub the cabin inside and out."

But before Seth could reply, Zeke pointed at Kate and shook his head adamantly, then tapped his chest and nodded.

"Well, if you think you can manage by yourself, I'll help Seth scrub. You know where to find the sacks and a shovel."

After Zeke left the cabin, Kate said, "I didn't realize you were more concerned about staying clean than getting the job done, Seth."

²⁵"The job's getting done, isn't it? As long as Zeke's along, you and I don't have to do the dirty work. And don't look so shocked, Kate. We both know who cleans *The Mary Ann* and mucks out the stable.

"That's because Zeke doesn't steer," Kate said indignantly. "The two of us drive the mules and steer, and he drives the mules and does the chores. It's perfectly fair."

"Zeke could steer—between the locks, anyway—and you know it. But you like things the way they are."

"Are you suggesting I'm not treating Zeke fairly?" How dare Seth talk to her like that!

"If the shoe fits, wear it. But if you don't stop arguing and start scrubbing, you won't be finished by dark."

Kate glared at Seth. If he hadn't come to her rescue barely an hour ago, she'd have a few words for him. "Come on then," she said. "Let's get started."

"You can start whenever you like. I already told you I'm going to see Washington City."

Speechless, Kate stared after her stepbrother as he sauntered out of the cabin. How dare he! Who did he think he was, going off to see the city when there was all this work to be done? Light-headed with anger, Kate rolled up her sleeves and prepared to attack the grimy cabin alone. "You'll regret this, Seth Hillerman," she muttered. "Just you wait."